



**Advisory Announcement**  
***For Immediate Release: March 23, 2021***

**CONTACT: Andrew Olson**  
**Groundfish-Shellfish Coordinator**  
**[andrew.olson@alaska.gov](mailto:andrew.olson@alaska.gov)**  
**(907) 465-4259**

**2020/21 SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL GOLDEN KING CRAB FISHERY  
NORTHERN AREA CLOSURE**

The commercial golden king crab (GKC) fishery in the Northern management area will close at 12:00 noon, **Monday, April 5, 2021**. The department evaluated fishery performance using fishery dependent indicators after exceeding the minimum requirement of 500 pot lifts per the recommended GKC harvest strategy:

([http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/southeast/gkc\\_for\\_comments\\_v3\\_ao.pdf](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/commercial/southeast/gkc_for_comments_v3_ao.pdf)).

The Northern management area is being closed in response to continued poor fishery performance despite re-opening after a two-year closure to promote stock rebuilding and recovery. GKC are vulnerable to overexploitation once fished below sustainable levels given their slow growth and late maturation. The guideline harvest level (GHL) for GKC in the Northern management area is 7,500 lbs and, through March 23, 2021, 2,633 lbs have been harvested by six vessels. The average catch per unit effort (CPUE) this season was 0.6 crab/pot, which is less than the corresponding trigger (2.0 crab/pot) and limit (1.3 crab/pot) reference points. This season's low CPUE also remains unchanged from the 2017/18 season, maintaining the lowest CPUE on record for the last 19 seasons and warranting management action.

Permit holders are reminded that call-in requirements remain in effect for all current registrants. Permit holders are also requested to notify the department when they change areas or cease fishing for the season.

The department will continue to monitor fishery performance via harvest ticket/logbook and port sampling data for the remaining open management areas: East Central, Mid-Chatham, Lower Chatham, and Southern. Additional management actions may be taken as necessary, and the department will provide as much advance notice as possible for future area closures.

A vessel may leave gear in stored condition for five days following the closure of a portion of Registration Area A [5 AAC 34.127(2)]. All gear must be removed from the Northern management area no later than 12:00 noon, April 10, 2021.

Under Alaska's Health Advisories 1, 2, 3, and 4, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Advisories. COVID-19 Health Advisories may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-advisories/>.

The Emergency Order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1C1021.

Advisory announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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